

REMARKS:

Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action mailed March 6, 2009 and entry of the present amendment is requested because Applicants respectfully submit that the Amendment places the application in condition for allowance or in better form for consideration on appeal.

In response to the Final Office Action, claims 1-22 have been canceled without prejudice for consideration in a future divisional application, claims 41, 43, and 57 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 42, 43, 50, 52, and 56 have been amended. Specifically, claims 42, 50, and 56 have been rewritten in independent form, claim 36 has been amended to include the features of claims 41 and 43 (which have consequently been canceled), and claim 52 has been amended to include the features of claim 57 (which has also consequently been canceled). Therefore, claims 36-40, 42, 44-56, 58, and 59 are currently pending, with claim 45 withdrawn from consideration.

In addition, paragraph [0068] of the specification has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 42, 43, 50, 51, 56, and 57 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As indicated above, allowable claims 42, 50, and 57 have been rewritten in independent form.

In addition, claim 36 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 43 and intervening claim 41, and claim 52 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 57. Consequently, the claims that depend from claims 36 and 52 should also now be allowable.

Withdrawn claim 45 also depends indirectly from claim 36 and so Applicants request that this claim be reinstated and also allowed. Since claims 1-22 have been canceled, the application should now include only allowable claims and therefore should be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims now presented in this application define patentable subject matter over the cited prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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